



Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program



September 2021

The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program is committed to providing equitable and just programming, resources, funding, and technical assistance to schools, farmers, and partners in the local food system.

Welcome Our New Team Member!



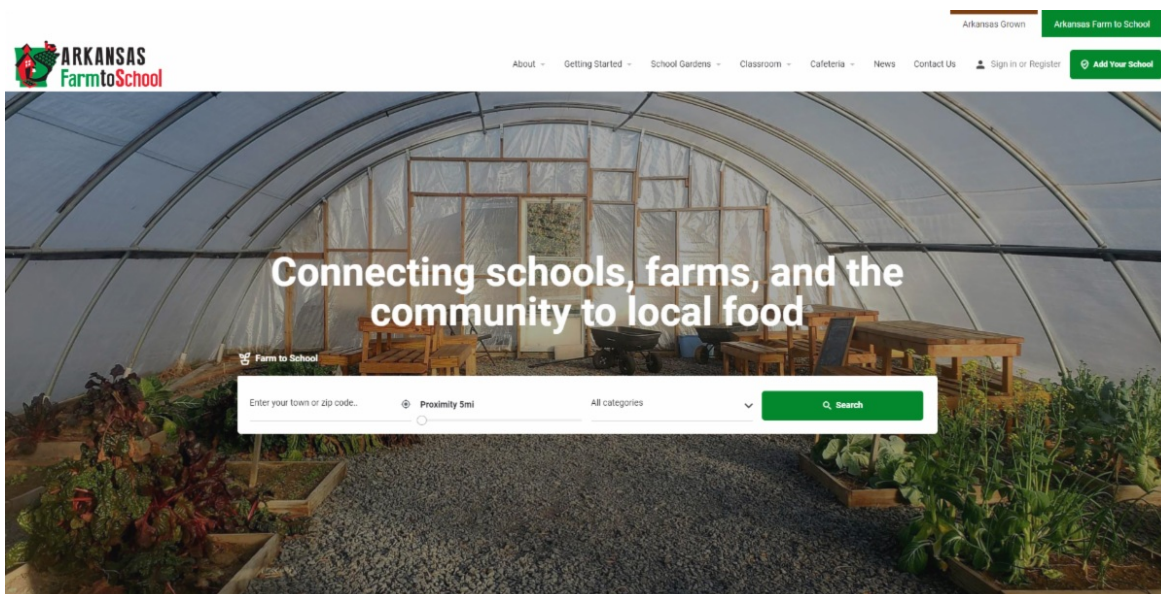
State School Garden Manager

We are excited to introduce Erica Benoit who recently joined the farm to school team as the State School Garden Manager! Erica will provide technical assistance to schools, develop farm to school resources, host webinars and trainings, and lead the school garden contest and grant program. Welcome, Erica!

Erica Benoit recently moved back to her home state of Arkansas with her partner and dog after completing her Master of Environmental Studies degree from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. For the last three years, Erica has worked for the Sustainability in Prisons Project to provide environmental education

and nature access to incarcerated individuals in Washington State prisons. Before this, Erica graduated from Hendrix College in 2017 with a Bachelors in Environmental Studies/Spanish and then served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Arkansas Children's Research Institute, the former National Farm to School Network's Core Partner for Arkansas. Erica's passion for food justice has fueled all her career and academic endeavors, and she is excited to continue this important work in a new capacity.

New Arkansas Farm to School Website!



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the launch of a new multi-platform website that partners Arkansas Farm to School, arfarmtoschool.org, with Arkansas Grown, arkansasgrown.org. It is the first website of its kind that connects farm to school to a state's local food branding programs.

The connected website was developed by MHP/Team SI and offers many features, including interactive maps of school gardens, local procurement activities, farms, and producers across the state. Farmers and producers can search on arfarmtoschool.org to find contact information for school districts that buy local food. Alternatively, schools can find contact information on arkansasgrown.org for farmers and producers when searching the site for sources to buy local food.

Schools that add or update school garden and local procurement information on the website will receive a **FREE Arkansas Farm to School plaque** that can be displayed in the school garden or cafeteria. With Arkansas Farm to School Month coming up in less than 30 days, this is a great way to kickstart your school garden, agriculture education, and local procurement activities.

Receive a
FREE
Farm to
School

Plaque!

Add or update your farm to school listing to qualify for the promotion.

Promotion Available:
September 1 - October 31, 2021
Supplies Limited

[Visit Website](#)



Farm to School Opportunities

Adopt A Cow Program

Sign-Up Deadline: September 15, 2021



[Sign-Up Here](#)

The Discover Dairy “Adopt a Cow” program is an exciting, year-long experience for your classroom. Through the program, schools will get an inside look at dairy farming and be paired with a calf from a dairy farm in the United States. Schools will find out her name, birthday, where she lives, and how the farmer takes care of her.

Schools will also receive progress updates, photos of the calf, live chats from the farm, activity sheets for students, suggested lessons that follow Common CORE standards, and even opportunities to write letters to the calf!

RESCHEDULED: Funding & Financial Sustainability Solution Webinar

September 22, 2021 at 2:00 PM

The School Garden Support Organization Network is hosting a webinar on funding and sustainability solutions for school gardens across the nation.



The webinar will explore challenges related to sustainably funding school garden programs and include information on fundraising, grant writing, and other revenue streams.

[Register Here](#)

Grants and Funding

Be Mighty Equipment and Supplies Grant (Little Rock)

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: September 17, 2021

Be Mighty has created an equipment and supplies grant for the Little Rock community through generous funding from the National Recreation & Parks Association Nutrition Hub Grant.

The application is open for organizations such as community centers, libraries, and schools to request equipment that will support USDA meals and/or nutrition and garden education programming in Little Rock. The goal of the grant is to expand organizational capacity to serve meals, conduct nutrition education programming, or develop and maintain a community garden.

Be Mighty Equipment & Supplies Grant

WHO: Local organizations, community centers, schools, and others in Little Rock, AR

WHAT: Request equipment & supplies up to \$5,000

WHY: Expanding capacity to serve USDA meals, conduct nutrition education programming, or develop and maintain community gardens for educational purposes

WHERE & WHEN: Apply online before 5:00 p.m. on September 17, 2021

Contact Jasmine (jzandi@cal.org) for more information.

[Apply Here](#)

Big Green Jumpstart Garden Grant

Amount: \$2,000

Deadline: September 21, 2021



[Apply Here](#)

Schools that already have a garden, are teaching in the garden or have plans to do so soon, and need more funding to engage more children in outdoor learning can apply for this exciting new opportunity!

Schools interested in applying must attend a Grantseeker Webinar on September 15, 2021.

Cooking Matters Stipends

Amount: \$1000 for family classes and \$600 for student classes

Cooking Matters is a hands-on food skills education program that empowers families with the skills they need to cook and shop healthy on a budget.

Programming options include: 6-session cooking and nutrition classes, 1-time grocery store tours, virtual programming options for parents, and a universal lesson plan for teachers.

For more information or to apply, contact Nutrition Director, Samantha Stadter at ssstadter@arhungeralliance.org.

Course Stipends Available

Funding available for Cooking Matters classes with parents, families, or kids



Stipends can be used to cover the costs of class groceries, teaching materials, cooking equipment, childcare or participant transportation.

Visit Our Website



ARKANSAS FarmtoSchool